

LBJ Snubs British Ambassador

By Drew Pearson

When the British Ambassador, Sir Patrick Dean, presented his credentials to President Johnson he was a bit surprised—and not pleased—to find that he was being received by the President along with two other Ambassadors—Radomiro Tomic Romero of Chile and Torben Ronne of Denmark.



Pearson

It was not that he disliked his two diplomatic colleagues—quite the contrary—but rather that the British Commonwealth has important mutual problems with its most important ally, the United States, which require private discussion. Britain, incidentally, is the only NATO member giving the United States aid out support in Viet-Nam. However, the President, after chatting pleasantly with all three Ambassadors, let them depart. On their way out, as an afterthought, they were called back to pose with the President.

Some time later, diplomatic eyebrows were raised when it leaked out that the correspondent of the Manchester Guardian, Alistair Cooke, had seen the President for three hours, whereas the British

Ambassador had not been able to see him alone for five minutes.

Tyrant on Immigration

If the public could have sat in on the closed-door committee meeting at which Chairman Mike Feighan (D-Ohio), the immigration czar, verbally snapped off the head of Texas Rep. Jack Brooks, the Johnson Administration spokesman, it would have disillusioned about democracy at work.

For about four years, President Kennedy and later President Johnson maneuvered to liberalize the "national origins" formula for admitting immigrants; also permit the relatives of naturalized Americans to have an easier time meeting visa requirements.

Feighan, the hot-headed Congressman from Cleveland, has long opposed this, and when Rep. Brooks, a close friend of President Johnson, proposed bringing up such a bill, H.R. 2580, before the House Immigration subcommittee, Feighan became white-faced with anger.

"You're out of order," he snapped.

"All right, then I offer a motion that we go into executive session, so that consideration of the bill will be in order," said Brooks patiently.

"We are in executive session now," declared Feighan. But the meeting is limited

to private immigration bills. We can't take up H.R. 2580 at this time."

"In that case, I move further that the session be opened up to a full and unrestricted discussion of legislation affecting immigration," said Brooks.

"You're out of order," insisted Feighan, his voice rising. Brooke appealed to seven other members of the subcommittee, suggested a vote on Feighan's ruling, but got nowhere.

"You've never been recognized by the chair and you can't make an appeal until you are recognized," screamed Feighan in a rage, waving his arms excitedly.

"In all my days in Congress I've never encountered anything like this, where a member of a committee cannot appeal the arbitrary ruling of a chairman for a vote," snapped Brooks, getting rather angry himself by this time. "This is merely a matter of democratic procedure, long recognized by the Congress."

As the temperamental Feighan was frantically consulting a book on congressional procedure, suddenly the bells rang. This summoned the House into session, and since a committee is not supposed to be meeting when the House itself is in session, Feighan

was able to adjourn the turbulent meeting.

East-West Cooperation

Shortly before the Gemini flight, the Hungarian Minister, Janos Radvanyi, got a phone call from the State Department explaining that the National Aeronautics and Space Administration had discovered that the wave length on which it planned to communicate with Gemini 4 in the early stages was the very same one used by Radio Budapest. This is the radio used by the Hungarian government to broadcast Hungarian news, propaganda, etc., to the world. "Would you mind holding up broadcasting for three hours until we get Gemini launched," the State Department asked.

Hungarian Minister Radvanyi put in a call to Budapest. "We got Budapest in three minutes," he said later, "The quickest we have ever got through."

"The State Department must have helped on the side to speed up the call with the phone company," suggested a friend. "Were they also listening in?"

"We wouldn't care if they were," said the Minister. "We were glad to suspend Radio Budapest for three hours. After all, we wouldn't want the American astronauts taking orders from a Communist radio station."

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